DETAILED ACTION

1.   Applicant's Appeal Brief filed on November 3, 2008 has been entered. Claims 1-20 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by applicant on January 27, 2009. The applicant has agreed and authorized examiner to incorporate claims 3 and 5 into claim 1, claims 19-20 into claim 17, and to cancel claims 3, 5, 10-16, and 19-20.

CLAIMS:

3.   Please cancel claims 3, 5, 10-16, and 19-20

4.   Please replace claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1.   (currently amended) A method of controlling traffic in a computer network, the method comprising:

modifying a data unit to be sent by a first computer, the data unit being intended for a second computer, the data unit being modified such that the data unit is redirected from the first computer to a third computer, the data unit being generated in and originating from the first computer and being sent by the first computer to connect to the computer network;

sending the data unit from the first computer to the third computer;

forwarding the data unit from the third computer to the second computer;

wherein the data unit is modified in the first computer prior to initialization of a network-enabled application in the first computer; and

wherein a destination address field of the data unit is modified to contain an address of the third computer in a destination address field and an address of the second computer in another portion of the data unit.

5.   Please replace claim 17 as follows:

Claim 17.   (currently amended) A method of controlling traffic in a computer network, the method comprising:

modifying a DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol) packet at a first computer prior to initialization of a network-enabled application in the first computer, the DHCP packet being intended for a DHCP server, the DHCP packet being modified to be redirected to a second computer;

processing the DHCP packet at the second computer; and forwarding the DHCP packet from the second computer to the DHCP server;

forwarding a response packet from the DHCP server to the first computer after the response packet is forwarded from the second computer to the DHCP server; and

wherein modifying the DHCP packet at the first computer comprises including an address of the second computer in a destination address field of the DHCP packet and including an address of the DHCP server in another portion of the DHCP packet.

6.   Please replace claim 18 as follows:

Claim 18.   (currently amended)   The method of claim 17 wherein processing the DHCP packet at the second computer includes scanning the DHCP packet for viruses.

Allowable Subject Matter

7.   Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, and 17-18 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior arts do not disclose modifying a data unit to be sent by a first computer, the data unit being intended for a second computer, the

data unit being modified such that the data unit is redirected from the first computer to a third computer, the data unit being generated in and originating from the first computer and being sent by the first computer to connect to the computer network; sending the data unit from the first computer to the third computer; forwarding the data unit from the third computer to the second computer; wherein the data unit is modified in the first computer prior to initialization of a network-enabled application in the first computer; and wherein a destination address field of the data unit is modified to contain an address of the third computer in a destination address field and an address of the second computer in another portion of the data unit, as set forth in claim 1. Furthermore, the prior arts do not disclose modifying a DHCP (dynamic host configuration protocol) packet at a first computer prior to initialization of a network-enabled application in the first computer, the DHCP packet being intended for a DHCP server, the DHCP packet being modified to be redirected to a second computer; processing the packet at the second computer; and forwarding the DHCP packet from the second computer to the DHCP server; forwarding a response packet from the DHCP server to the first computer after the response packet is forwarded from the second computer to the DHCP server; and wherein modifying the DHCP packet at the first computer comprises including an address of the second computer in a destination address field of the DHCP packet and including an address of the DHCP server in another portion of the DHCP packet, as set forth in claim 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanhnga (Tanya) Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-3858.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on 571-272-3859. The central fax

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

/Thanhnga B. Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2435

TBT
January 29, 2009